**The Cold War 1945-1949**

**1945**

**Jan. 1945: Yalta Conference (FDR, Churchill, Stalin)**

**May 1945: Germany Surrenders (May 7th to USA & Brit, a.k.a. V-E Day and May 8th to USSR)**

**July 1945: Potsdam Conference (Truman, Attlee, Stalin)**

**Aug. 1945: A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima (Aug. 6) & Nagasaki (Aug. 9)**

**Aug. 1945: Japan surrenders (Aug. 15, but time difference = Aug. 14 in US… V-J Day)**

**Sept. 1945: Japan signs surrender (Sept. 2)**

**1946**

**Feb. 1946: Kennan sends his Long Telegram**

* **Soviets expansionist**
* **US stronger than USSR**
* **must stop spread of Communism**
* **internal & external threats from Communism**
* **Dollar Diplomacy brings stability & Atomic Monopoly**

**March 1946: Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech**

**May 1946: US halts sending of reparation to Soviet zone because USSR not delivering food &**

**commodities**

**July 1946: Bizonia created by US & Brit: merged US & Brit zones into one economy**

**Autumn 1946: US priorities change from punish Germany to rehabilitate it**

**Truman Administration taking more ideological stance**

**Truman Doctrine**

**March 12, 1947: 1st official proclamation of Containment Policy; emphasized division of the**

**world into 2 blocs**

* **US promised to aid Greece and Turkey, because Britain could no longer afford to do so**
* **Greece fighting civil war against communists**
* **Turkey had border issues with USSR**
* **mostly financial aid ($400 million)**

**“I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.”—Harry S. Truman, speech to U.S. Congress, 12 March 1947**

**followed by build-up & reorganization of US defense system including independent Air Force & establishment of CIA**

**Marshall Plan**

**June 5, 1947: European Recovery Program announced named for U.S. Secretary of State,**

**George C. Marshall**

* **part of Containment Policy**
* **massive program of economic assistance to rebuild Europe**
* **all countries invited to participate, including USSR & Eastern European communists**
* **Stalin rejects as threat to his sphere of influence & to Soviet superpower status**
* **Stalin advises eastern European countries not to participate**
* **US provided over $13 billion (over $250 billion today) to rebuild western European economies**
* **economic aid would bring stability to Europe; stability would prevent communism from building there; chaos = opportunity for communism**

**Soviet Reactions to Truman Doctrine & Marshall Plan**

* **Molotov Plan create a single economic unit from USSR & eastern European countries**
* **Sept. 1947: Cominform (Communist Information Bureau) established—promote international communism using propaganda & obstructing elections; Stalin’s representative, Andrei Zhdanov claimed world was divided into 2 camps**
* **support of labor strikes, especially in France**
* **1948: Hungary’s government purged of non-communists**
* **1948: Czechoslovakia had pursued interest in Marshall Plan; Feb. 1948 communist coup**

**Jan Masaryk: “I went to Moscow as a Foreign Minister of an independent**

**sovereign state; I returned as a lackey of the Soviet government.”**

**US & Allied Reaction to Eastern Europe Developments**

* **Czechoslovakia events especially influential**
* **Allies (US, Brit, Fr) sped up plans to consolidate zones of occupation**
* **1st step towards creating independent West Germany**
* **economic concerns alone not enough to restore confidence in Europe**
* **must be willing to take military action to defend western Europe**
* **by June 1949 restrictions on German industry & administration bureaucracy relaxed**
* **Allies discussing creation of a defense alliance (NATO)**
* **Allies discussing new constitution for Germany**

**Berlin Blockade and Airlift (June 1948 – May 1949)**

**Immediate Causes:**

* **and US_flag_48_stars.png announce new unified currency for western zones of occupation**
* **Stalin feared economically strong Germany—lead to rearming of Ger**
* **violation of Potsdam Agreement**
* **Stalin saw new currency as 1st step to UNIFIED Germany**

**Soviets Blockade West Berlin:**

* **Night 23-24 June 1948**
* **road & rail links to West Berlin cut off**
* **food & water into West Berlin cut off**

**West Berlin:**

* **c. 2,500,000 people**
* **35 days of food & 45 days of coal (heating & cooking)**
* **less than 25,000 Allied soldiers**
* **NEEDS: 1,534 tons food/day & 3,475 tons coal & gasoline/day**
* **1,700 calories/day = 646 tons wheat & flour; 125 tons grain; 64 tons fat; 109 tons meat & fish; 180 tons dehydrated potatoes; 180 tons sugar; 19 tons powdered milk**

**Allied Response:**

* **General Lucius Clay, military governor of West Berlin, 1st reaction to send convoy to West Berlin→**
* **and US_flag_48_stars.png decide on supplying West Berlin by air**

**Berlin Airlift (June 1948 – Sept 1948)**

* **and US_flag_48_stars.png fly in all supplies needed for c. 2.5 million people**
* **trial & error**
* **Berlin winter fog problem**
* **rethink & reorganize rules of flying: USAF General William Tunner**
* **Operation Easter Parade (16 April 1949): 12,941 tons of coal**
* **21 April 1949: airlift surpassed total of supplies provided by rail before Blockade**
* **12 May 1949: Soviets lift Blockade**
* **Airlift continued until September**

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* **and US_flag_48_stars.png c. 280,000 flights (height 1 plane reached Berlin every 30 seconds)**
* **c. 1,800,000 tons**
* **c. 500,00 tons**
* **and US_flag_48_stars.png 101 fatalities**
* **Soviets Humiliated and forced to back down**
* **and US_flag_48_stars.png VICTORY**
* **changed perception of Germans; Germans changed perception of Allies**

**Federal Republic of Germany, FRG (West Germany)**

* **Feb. 1949: Allies introduced Deustchmark (DM) as only legal currency in western zones**
* **23 May 1949: foundation of Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) a.k.a. West Germany**
* **Aug. 1949: elections for new parliament**
* **Sept. 1949: Parliament meets 1st time; Konrad Adenauer Chancellor**

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

* **4 April 1949 NATO established**
* **military alliance of 12 countries**
* **US, Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Norway, Iceland**
* **collective security**
* **attack on one = attack on all**
* **“to keep the Russians out, the Germans down, and the Americans in”**

**German Democratic Republic, GDR (East Germany)**

* **12 October 1949 established German Democratic Republic (GDR)**

**Soviet Atomic Bomb**

* **29 Aug. 1949: Soviets detonate 1st atomic bomb**